

PATENT

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 39 and 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In the Office Action, claims 39 and 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

In the Office Action, claims 7-31 allowed.

In response thereto, claim 39 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-31 and 39 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Independent Claim 39

Claim 39 recites an electrical lead having proximal and distal ends. The lead comprises an electrically conductive connector, an electrical conductive transitional coil, an elongate wire conductor, and an electrically conductive coupling. The electrically conductive transitional coil is in electrical contact with the connector and runs from the connector toward the distal end of the lead. The transitional coil has a distal portion, and the wire conductor has a proximal portion. The electrically conductive coupling establishes electrical contact between the distal portion of the transition coil and the proximal portion of the wire conductor. The conductive coupling is proximal to the wire conductor and distal to the transitional coil.

The Verness et al. reference discloses an implantable lead having the capability of continued function after fracture of a conductor. In one embodiment, the lead is provided with a coiled conductor (360) which extends along the length of the lead (see Figures 16-19). In addition to the coiled conductor, the lead is provided with a stranded conductor (362) which is electrically coupled to the coiled conductor at a point along the lead body located proximal to the point of expected breakage of the coiled conductor and at a point along the lead body located distal to the point of expected breakage.

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The Verness et al. reference does not disclose or suggest an electrical lead comprising an electrically conductive coupling distal to a transitional coil (coiled conductor). In Verness et al., a first conductive coupling connects the distal portion of the stranded conductor to a first portion of the coiled conductor, and a second conductive coupling connects the proximal portion of the stranded conductor to a second portion of the coiled conductor (see Figures 18 and 19). The first conductive coupling is distal to the second conductive coupling. With such a configuration, both conductive couplings are disposed within the proximal and distal ends of the coiled conductor. No where does the Verness et al. reference disclose or suggest that the electrically conductive coupling is distal to the transitional coil (coiled conductor).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted claim 39 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-6

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 39 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 7

In the Office Action, claim 7 is allowed over the prior art of record.

Independent Claim 8

In the Office Action, claim 8 is allowed over the prior art of record.

Independent Claim 9 and Dependent Claim 10

In the Office Action, claims 9 and 10 are allowed over the prior art of record

Independent Claim 11 and Dependent Claims 12-14

In the Office Action, claims 11-14 are allowed over the prior art of record.

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Independent Claim 15 and Dependent Claims 16-23

In the Office Action, claims 15-23 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Independent Claim 24 and Dependent Claims 25-31

In the Office Action, claims 24-31 are allowed over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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